

The Wonder-russ ( Mind's ) of the Homo-Say-Pea-On's  
And Other Stuff

One  finger style typing.

( 1 )

Started this 4/19/02 Friday.

Well this year started off a bit slow. But due to the good weather I was able to get some walking in, an do my small part to clean up our In-vy-row-ment. At least I got some of the

aluminum  cans off some of the County and State Highways. I walked parts of the following roads. Rd. ZZ . Hwy. 162. 7 Mile Lane. Ord Ferry Rd. Chico River Rd. Nelson West Rd. All south/west of Chico. Hwy. 32. Hwy 45. Road 24. Road. 105 All West of Chico. Nord Cana Hwy. Cana Rd. Boles Rd. Anita Rd. All north/west of Chico. Both Hwy 99 north and south of Chico. Hwy 70. Clark Rd. Hwy 149. Nelson Shippie Rd. Crow Canyon Rd. Welock Rd. Pertz Durham Rd. All south/west of Chico. And the Midway. south of Durham, Ca.

I walked a total of 96 miles, pickedup 2,914 can's and earned \$117.93. Spent about \$64 for gas, food an drink going after them. I found other stuff like Big bath

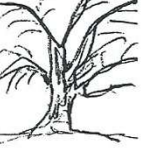
towels, small dish  towels, and lots of gray an red mechanic's rag's.  A

few baseball  cap's, 1 Black Zorro  Hat, and a few nails. 

I started 1/16/2002 and finished up on 3/22/2002.

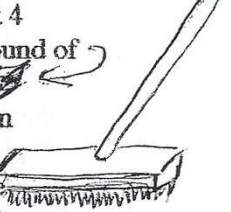
My next project was doing some yard work for Earl and Vivian who live behind me. first I pulled a lot of tall  grass. Then used his weed  sprayer and used

Roundup on all the grass around the border of his property. This was sort of a Free-bee

job, only working for Food Stuff. So far on that job he gave me 5 slices of  ham. 

Then a few days later I used my little Echo Chain  saw to trim up a few fruit

tree's, and cut down a big ( Bitter to the taste ) Almond  Tree. Took about 4 hours because i'm old an slow. So far on that job he has given me one pound of  Imperial Margarine. I still have a half of ham coming.

My next project was sweeping gravel off all the Intersection on Garner Lane from Sycamore Slew or Slue south to the stoplight on hwy. 99. First I went to Orchard Supply and Hardware an bought a nice stiff 18 inch push broom. I walk all over the place, and I get tired of walking on the rocks. So I did something about it. But sad to say they did not stay clean long. Because some people just don't care, and cut the corners and kick all the sand an gravel back out on the street. And when it gets really bad I just go sweep it off again. 

This is the end of page 1

Now 10:25 P.M. 4/19/2002 Fri.

© 2002

I'm slower than a snail on a greased



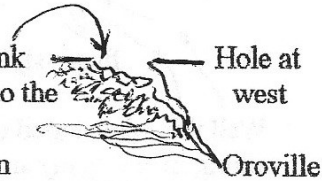
cookie sheet.

Now 4/20/2002 Sat.

( 2 )

At 1:06 P.M. PDST

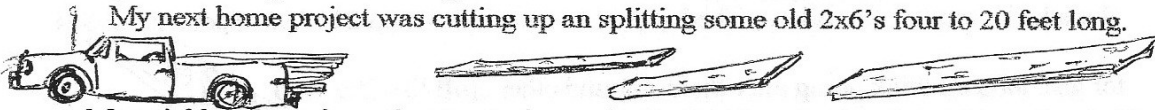
On one of my morning walks I noticed a pretty good size Sink the beginning off Stable Lane, just four feet off Garner Lane to the west side.



When I got home I called the Butte County Road Department in to let them know the hole which is inside there easement could be of great danger to a passing motorist or a bicycle rider. I told them it appeared to be about 14 feet deep and opening towards the north/east.

I took one of my orange cones and took it over an put it by the hole. As I was getting ready to leave a County Truck drove up. The guy jumped out an said, yep that is a pretty big hole. He did not waste anytime calling for a dump truck with a load of gravel. I told him I was amazed as to how fast they responded. He said the County could get sued if anyone should get hurt running into it. And he thanked me for the call.

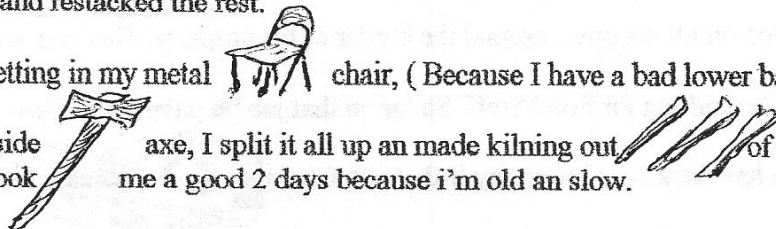
My next home project was cutting up an splitting some old 2x6's four to 20 feet long.



My neighbor Jerry down the street who works for Tri-Counties Bank in Chico, decided he wanted to build a big swimming pool instead of a Fort for his 2 young boy's. On a Sunday he loaded an hauled one pile of wood to my landlords house. I unloaded it for him, while he rested a bit. Then I went back with him to help load the rest of it.

The next day I started cutting in up to length with my trusty little chain saw. My landlord Chuck came out an said don't cut it all up. So I went thru it all an stacked the better stuff off to one side. Saved just a little over half of it. ( Good thing I found out later ) Cause Chuck showed up with a friend of his from the Church they bought and are remodeling to get some of that lumber to use as forms for pouring concrete. I cut up about 1/2 of the remaining stuff and restacked the rest.

Then while setting in my metal chair, ( Because I have a bad lower back ) and using a double side axe, I split it all up an made kilning out of it. Later I stacked it all. Took me a good 2 days because i'm old an slow.



My next project involved the people on the street I have lived on since May of 1996. ( NOTE ) ( A little about the Author of this short story. I was born in Longview, Wa. on 4/27/37 and in 1 week i'll turn 65 years old. I moved to Chico with my parents ( Both deceased ) in Sept. of 1948. I attended both Shasta Union Grade School, and Chico Senior High. I worked 11 years for Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. in Arcata, Ca. and 19 years for T.M.Duche Nut Co. Inc. in Orland, Ca. On March 25 1985 while sweeping off a roof on warehouse 2, I fell thru a plexiglass skylight an fell 27 ft. an broke my back, both legs and left arm. After getting out of the hospital the Nut Co. did'nt want me back. So I retired on Social Sercurity Disability. After my Father Bill Died in 1988 I moved an lived in Paradise for 8 an 1/2 years before moving to north Chico. )

This is the endof page 2

Now 6:56 P.M. PDST 4/20/2002 Sat.

If I go much slower, i'm going to fall asleep. Ha! Ha!

© 2002

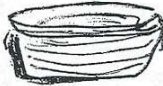


In this next section I will only use the names of those people who I know will not get upset, or those who gave me permission to do so.

When I first moved here in May of 1996 the people on this street did not appear very friendly. And I was told by several people, like my landlord Chuck, Ernie across the road, Mr. Hull, Mr. Jones and Mr. Hoyt and Jay Cage that over the years they have tried to get the whole 20 households to get this road fixed right, but to NO avail. A few like Jay Gage and others have spent there time and money putting in an asphalt mixture called Cold Patch with no hot oil. It was only a temperary fix, but as soon as the rains came that stuff would desolve like hot butter an disappear.

According to some long time residents Rancho Road was built wrong to start with. using No oil, or road base. Whomever just scraped it with a blade an put a couple of inches of black top on bare dirt. The first three quarters of the road was done that way. the 3 or 4 home owners on the west end paid a few thousand bucks a piece to have there part of the road Chipped an Sealed. That part has heald up much better than the mid an east end, where most of the pot holes appear each year.

In the 6 years i've been here, it seems like the same hole reappear each spring, with some getting a bit bigger. But No new holes. And for the past 6 years after Jay Gage sold out and moved to points unknown I have apointed myself as the keeper of the road. I own NO pickup truck, just a 1987 Ford Tauras ( Lemon ) 4 cyclinder, 4 door sedan. For the first 3 years I paid for the Cold Patch and did all the work myself.

In order to haul the stuff I used 1 = 50 gallon  metal tub, and 5 =  5 gallon plastic  buckets.

When I first started getting the Cold Patch at the Baldwin Sand an Gravel on Hwy 32 west of Hamilton City, it was a 28 mile round trip. The Scale lady named Sharon would not write me up a ticket for such a small amount. So I would show my appreciation by giving her 2 to 3 pounds of fresh English Walnut  meats for one load of about 300 lbs. On another trip I would give her 3 jar's of Musco  Olives. On another trip 3 loaves of fresh french  bread. And at times when they were in season, some plain  almonds, at other times some Garlic Roasted ones I had fixed myself. It took 4 = 300 lb. loads to fill all the holes.

When I did it the 4th year, I got brave and went to each household asking if each would like to contribute just \$1 to the road repair fund. A few said NO but others made up for it by giving me from \$2 to \$10.

In the year 2001 I had to drive much furthur one way because they had closed the plant at Hamilton City. So now I was going to there other Plant 3 miles north of Orland off I-5. It was now a 42 mile round trip. And on my last load I blew out my Strutt Shocks on the rear. Again I asked for donations from \$1 to \$5. I was really surprised by the Generousity of most. And 2 gave me \$20 and most of the others \$5. With only 4 houses not paying. I recieved enough to pay for all my gas, plus all the food stuff I had given Sandra the Scale Lady in Orland. And some went to pay for my New Shocks. And I had enough left over to have 1 Cheese Burger at Carl's Jr. " Whoopie ".

End of page 3

Now 9:55 P.M.

© 2002

If one listens really good, they mite hear the clicks on my computer key board.

Now 10:52 P.M.

( 4 )

After filling all the holes last year, I had a conversation with Judy Halladay and she asked me how we could get a more permanent fix to our road. I told her the only way would be to either Haul the Hot Patch in ourselves which would be very messy, or hire a Paving Contractor to do it. She said you find out how much it cost, and i'll help you collect the money from the neighborhood. ( Sound's So Simple HuH! ) And i'm not even a home owner I just rent, but I use the road like everybody else. *West*

Well on April ~~20~~ <sup>21</sup> 2002 ~~Sat~~ <sup>Fri</sup> I started my rounds from the ~~east~~ <sup>West</sup> end of Rancho Rd. And the people in the first 3 houses said if you can get any money out of those other people, we will help too. And a couple home owners said they did'nt want anything to do with it. But from Dave an Carol Rudolphs place east all said they would chip in depending how much it would cost. I told Carol an Dave for all those who did not pay I would ~~pay~~ <sup>pay</sup> for them because I really wanted to get the road done right. And hopefully it will stay fixed for awhile. ( Note ) There are 2 homes on the ~~east~~ <sup>West</sup> end I never asked to start. Mainly because one is never home, and the other one DON'T Like ME at all, even tho I have never done or said anything bad about them.

On Monday the 1st of April I called Sealco Paving Lic. No. 717592 and talked to one of the owners a Jeff Quandt. He came out Monday afternoon an gave me an estimate for \$458, and he could do it on the following Thursday the 4th. So I figured that would be \$24 per household for 19 homes. Not counting one because a Mr. Brackett had passed away. So Tues. I went back and told each that it would be \$24 per household.

Ernie was the first to pay \$25, and he collected from that one that don't care for me. And I collected most of the rest Tues. and Wed. And thanks to Jerry with the Black Truck and the mac-u-lunt front lawn who gave \$80, Lee an Karen \$50, 3 more gave \$25, and the rest all gave \$24. And because of the Wonderful Generousity of a few I did not have to pay any at all.

And for my contribution I took my new push broom an swepted off all the fine gravel an dirt on both sides of the road from one end to the other. Mainly to uncover those pot holes that were hidden. It took me about 12 hours.

Well sad to say the pavers never showed up, and when I called him he said it would rain on Friday ( But It Did'nt ) So On Monday the 8th I gave up waiting an took off an drove over to Corning to visit a Ham friend. When I returned at 3:30 p.m. it was all fixed. ( I guess I had finally figured out how to get the Pavers out to do the job, just leve town. Ha! Ha! )

Well those other folks came thru and decided to chip in also, and Mr. Jones paid for his brother inlaw who had passed on. So everything turned out great in the end. Even a Kenneth Gillette stopped by while I was sweeping some gravel off the road near the stop sign an said he wanted to contribute too because he used the road.

So I was amazed at the great generousity of some and in the end all that it was worth at least the \$24 to get ( THERE ROAD ) fixed properly. And hopefully it will last a few years. Only time will tell.

This is the end of page 4

Now 12:09 A.M. PDST 4/21/2002 Sun.

© 2002

I never took typing lessons, and it shows in my speed or lack of it. Ha! Ha!



Now 7:07 A.M. PDST



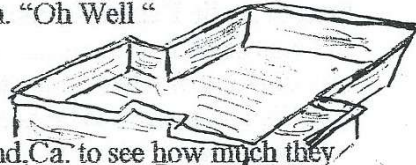
4/21/2002 Sun.

Now since I had a few bucks left over, a little light came on in my head and I thought what can I spend it on. After going to the store an back on Tues. afternoon the 9th of April I had my answer. I would use the extra money to buy Road Base and other rock to fill in the many holes on each side of the street made over time by the Mailman or Lady, Big Garbage Trucks, Propane Delievery Trucks and everyday wear an tear.

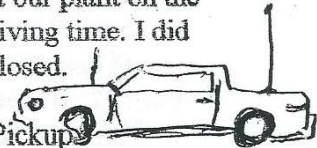
Wed. morning the 10th I called a couple of Ham Friends to see if I could barrow one of there Pickups. But both said NO. So then I drove over to Butte Rentals to see how much it would cost to Rent a Truck. They wanted a \$160 Sercuity Depoist just to drive the truck off the lot, so I could not afford that. And I did not want to bother any of the people living on Rancho Road about using one of the many pickup's that run up an down that street everyday.



Then another light popped into my beany, I would build a wooden box that would fit into the trunk of my car and then I would have a ( Poor Man's Pickup ) I had never done this before, but I had the plywood bottom and the 2x6's I had gotten from Jerry and Linda, and some nails left over from another job. So it was an all day build and rebuild for a 7 hour project before I finally got the thing to fit into my trunk. I kinda wished I had had this box when I was hauling all that Cold Patch. "Oh Well "



That late afternoon I called Baldwin Rock over in Orland, Ca. to see how much they Charge for Road Base. The lady said: \$9.95 per ton and you can get it at our plant on the Skyway in Chico. I said great an thanks. That would save me a lot of driving time. I did not know the plant in Chico was open, because a few years ago it was closed.



So early Thursday morning ( 7 a.m. ) the 11th I drove my Poor Man's Pickup out to get my first of many, many loads. First I went to the scale house to tell Cindy what I needed. When I told her what I was going to haul it in her Eyes widened a bit an she said are you serious. I said yep. So I had to weigh the car with me in



it. Then a Perky young Blonde named Stephane, who was the main frontend loader operator said she would help me load the stuff by hand with a shovel sence her loader was to big to get it in my trunk. She grabbed a square nosed shovel an ran all the way out to the pile as I drove slowly behind her. What A Sweetheart I thought to myself. And her husband is lucky to have this good looking an hard working lady. ( Note ) ( On top of that she owns a rides a Pretty Yellow 750 Honda Motorcycle. ) With both of us shoveling it only took 7 minutes to get the 360 lbs. loaded on.



They have a \$10 minium for pickup's weither Rich or Poor. So they would charge me \$10.73 cents for 3 loads with a total of 1,080 lbs. My idea of filling the holes and using the funds left over from the Fill the Pot Hole Project, sounded like a good plan to me. But because one can ( Never ) figure people out in the way there ( Mind's ) work, it did not work that way.

End of page 5

Now 8:20 a.m. PDST

© Jerry

Wow Wee i'm getting faster. HuH!!

Now 9:14 A.M.

( 6 )

I first started filling in the holes in front of Mr. Dean Burns house, thinking it would take about 3 or 4 loads to do the job. Half way thru Dean came out an said to be sure and give him a Bill when I was Done. I said Okkie Dokkie. It took 9 loads to do that one, and it came out to \$32.19 for the material. I just charged him \$30. I only charge \$6 per hour for my labor for unloading. Which came to 2 an 1/4 hours. It cost me \$12 for gas but I only charged him \$7. I do not charge for the time it takes to load it, or my driving time coming an going. I did not want to charge him the full amount thinking he mite think it was to much.

On Friday the 12th I finished up Deans an then I started on Jerry's ( last name unknown ) With the Mack - u - hunt front lawn. He came home while I was finishing up and wanted to pay me. And Gave me \$20. Then I asked Dean Halladay if he would like to have the Big Hole in his Drive done, and after thinking a bit on how cheap I could do it, he said go ahead. It took a total of \$21 to do that one. And his Lovely wife Judy gave me \$25. I had a few shovel fulls left over so I put them in a big hole at the start of Gary Hulls driveway at NO CHARGE to him. Since he had given a bit more than the \$24 I had asked for on the Road Repair Fund.

Then on Monday the 15th I started filling in the biggest an deepest holes on the block in front of Leslie Depweg home. It took 2 days and 10 full loads. Leslie came home on Mon. as I was halfway thru an said that is wonderful that your doing this. My husband and I was thinking of where to get to the stuff. You be sure an give us a bill. I did an she paid me \$75, and seemed to be gen - u - win - lee happy.

Then on April 17th a Wed. I went looking for some matching small rock to cover over the sandy road base and to match up with there existing rock in front of there home. Both Baldwin Plants only had Pea Gravel and another place could make a special order up but it would cost \$20 per trunk load. So I ended up going over to Valley Rock Products Inc. off Hwy 32 west of Hamilton City that sits on the banks of Stoney Creek.

When I went into the Office a fella named Mike said your going to haul it in WHAT? He first went an had a High Level Meeting with all the Higher Mucky Mucks, then said I would have to load it myself and they would only charge me a Low \$2 per load. Wow what a deal I thought. I had to check in each time I came for another load. On my third trip I noticed both there Office and Salesman Signs were a mite Delapadated and one could hardly make out the lettering.

So I told there Salesman Rick that I would be more than happy to make them some New Signs for a couple of loads. He said we can work something out. ( NOTE ) ( Rick Borjas told me he use to work at T.M. Duche Nut Co. Inc. back in the early 80's when I was there. He said him and a Roy Stewart both now work here. ) I told him I did'nt remember him or Roy, and I still don't. But he seems like a really nice fellow, with a warm hand shake an a ready smile. Mike also seems to be very nice. And everyone I saw there were very helpful.

When I went back for my 4th load, Mike told me they were not going to charge me for any of the Rock I got. ( Which was 1 inch crushed rock ) he said an even trade for the New signs. I told them that was very nice.

End of page 6

Now 10:53 A.M. PDST

© 2002

Boy if I keep this speed up, I mite Finish this before the end of the Summer. HuH!



Now 12:48 P.M.

( 7 )

When I went back for my 5th load, I went on into Orland and bought 1 and 1/2 dozen assorted donuts and gave them to the people in the Office. The new lady asked who are they from?? I said the owner of that Poor Man's Pickup out there that has been hauling rock all day. She laughed and said we all love donuts and thanks. I also showed Rick the 2 temporary signs I had made during my lunch break and had hung them up outside. He thought they were nice looking. And told him I would bring the better one's over on Friday or Mon. morning.

I finished up Leslie's place, and then I had a bit left over, so I put the rest in a hole in front of Linda Vollweilers big yellow house on the corner. I had ask her earlier if they would like me to haul some road base in to fill up there holes, but she said not at this time. I think if she had given me the time to tell her the Material, my gas, and my labor had already been paid for from the Pot Hole Road Repair Fund she probably would have had me do it. But it is TOO LATE now. I've taken the box apart.

As I was headed for the house I spotted another hole on the right side of Jerry's Driveway, so I turned around and drove back over to Valley Rock thinking one load would do it. But I was wrong again. It took 2 and 1/2 loads, and the other half of a load I finished filling up that big hole in front of the Vollweiler's house. Finally at 4:35 p.m. I was all done.

I wrote Leslie Depweg a note that said the 5 loads of 1 inch crushed rock, my gas and my labor time was paid for from the Pot Hole Repair Fund. She was not home when I delivered it but a very pretty lady answered the door and I asked her to please give it to Leslie. In all that time I spent hauling road base and then rock to fill up there holes I never saw her husband once. Maybe he didn't like what I was doing. Or maybe he was at work. Oh well it looks ok to me. NOT PERFECT but it will pass for now. Hopefully all my hard work will last for a few years before Others will have to redo it.

After I finished Jerry's place I came home and cleaned up a bit and Drove down to Orchard Supply House on East Ave. and bought \$23 worth of Primer, Paint, Self Ad-he-zive white over black lettering. I made the NEW Signs out of 2 pieces of 2x6's. Put 2 coats of White Primer on, and then 2 coats of a medium Brown on. After it dried I placed the letters on then put a few very small tacks in to hold the letters on in case the Ad-he-zive wore off. Plus it made the signs look a little ( Tacky ) ( Smile Rick )



I delivered the Signs early Friday morning. And I told Rick to keep the other one's I had made just in case something happened to the newer ones. Both Mike and Rick liked all 4 signs. So that made me happy.

But this day was not over for me. When I got home I put my work clothes back on and walked over to one of my neighbors who lives behind me. I helped Earl and his friend John load up Thousands of old and rusting Bicycle frames, wheels, and buckets and more buckets of parts into a 40 yard dumper headed for the Scrap Yard on 20th Street in south/east Chico. I worked 4 hours before I was too tired to move.

© Joe J

This is the end of page 7

Now 6:17 P.M. PDST 4/21/2002 Sun.

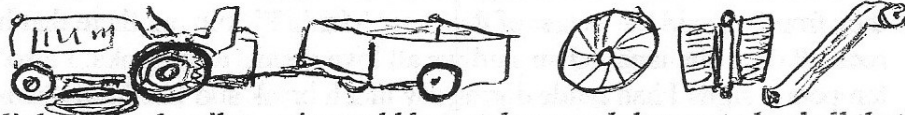
Smile Folks I'm almost done with this Short Story.

Now 7:22 P.M. PDST

( 8 )

4/21/2002 Sun.

The next day Saturday I went back over at 9 a.m. and we loaded more bicycle parts and an old electric cooking stove with two ovens. Good thing Earl had his Riding Lawn



Mower with his little 2 wheel trailer, or it would have taken much longer to load all that stuff. Earl had not called me earlier to help him out, because his wife Vivian said she didn't have enough money to pay me my normal hourly labor wage of \$6 per hour. I only charge \$8 per hr. when I do a major yard clean up, like I did for them last year.

I told both Vivian and Earl that for helping them out this time, and like I had the past couple of times. I would work for Food Stuff. At Noon on Sat. Earl fed me a Grill Cheese Sandwich, 2 pieces of Lemon Cake, and 2 glasses of Apple Juice. Which I thought was very nice.

After that I came home and rested for 45 minutes. Then went back over and finished up loading everything he wanted to get rid of that day. He sent me home with enough food items for 2 good dinners. Later I think he is going to give me a little Childs bicycle with training wheels so I can give it to a Ham Friend of mine over in Ord Bend, Ca. ( Jerry KE6RZU ) so he can give it to his 4 or 5 year old Son Joey.



Well that is almost the end of this story.

( Epp-E-Log )

Being retired isn't all that fun if you don't have enough money to go anywhere. And I get bored very easy. I take care of my landlords Dog Named ( CORKY ) the sometimes bird dog. And water his garden and her flowers when there off to points unknown to me. So while I'm still in pretty good shape health wise, ( NOT WEIGHT WISE ) I keep trying to find things to do. Like sweeping gravel off the many intersections in my neighborhood and else where. Helping Earl out when ever I can. Doing the Rancho Rd. Projects from time to time, which now because all the people on this street paid to have it fixed right, and hopefully it will last awhile. I won't be bugging them anymore for Donations. That should make them all smile.

When the good weather comes I go out and walk most State and County roads doing my part to clean up the In-vy-row ment, by picking up cans. In the Fall months I go out and pick up English Walnuts from a farmer over in Ord Bend, Ca. who owns 5,000 Acres. And he lets me pick up all the nuts left over after there Harvest time. I crack a few hundred pounds and sell some meats from \$3 to \$4 per pound. And at times give nuts away to my Friendly Neighbors. I sell a lot in the shell to a buyer in Biggs, Ca. Last year I picked up 4,622 pounds, (ONE ) nut at a time.

I wish to thank all the people on Rancho Road for helping me out on my Road Project this year. And hopefull all will drive a bit slower so it will last a bit longer.

This is the End. Written and typed By me. Hope you like the Art work.

73 or Best wishes for a good lasting life. Alan W. Padgett Nov. 6 Real Nice Person  
Finished 4/21/2002 Sun. at 8:07 P.M.PDST Chico, Ca.

( © Jw2 )